SAVE US, FOR WE PERISH.

INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY CHILDHOOD.

EXCELLENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

To assist *unfortunate pagan children*, who daily perish by thousands and hundreds of thousands; to rescue them from a watery grave, or from the power of ferocious dogs and swine, to which unhappy lot the cruelty of their inhuman parents daily abandons them; to procure them the grace of Baptism, and if they survive, place them in charitable asylums: such is the object of the association of the *Holy Childhood*, that sublime institution which to-day, numbers almost as many members as there are catholic children in the world. This, perhaps, is the first good work, which since the establishment of Christianity, has happily succeeded in placing to advantage the slight tribute of charity, from the *children of every country*.

Founded by the Bishop of Nancy, it extended itself through France, and thence, throughout the whole world. All children of whatever age or condition, are called upon to become soldiers in this immense army, which is destined, not to destroy, but to lead immortal souls to God. Could any work have a more excellent object? Convinced of the immense benefit resulting from the establishment of the Holy Childhood, Pius IX has placed it on the same footing as that of the "Propagation of the Faith," and has specially recommended it to the Bishops, Archbishops and Patriarchs of the whole world. It is therefore impossible to doubt the unhappy lot of these poor children. Moreover, the misery of their condition, is a fact attested by the accounts of every Missionary, and admitted by all Europe. To deny it, would be an open avowal of ignorance.

Happy results of the Institution.

It is impossible to speak adequately of the happy results of this admirable institution; it works daily prodigies!—Every year it saves *thousands and hundreds of thousands* of souls. In the last report but one, published by the Society, it is stated that 192,300 children were saved and in the last, so many as 216,404. This year, (1856) 329,388 children have been baptized! Thus, within the space of ten years, nearly two millions of children have been snatched from everlasting death!... The number is continually increasing. How many more could have been saved, had the funds been more abundant?— 4,000 children can be purchased for 1,000 francs, and 3 or 4 for 20 cents. Who then, will raise his voice against an institution which has already effected so much good? On the contrary, who will not hasten to enroll himself under its glorious banner, and propagate it with all his power.

Far from being an impediment to the *Propagation of the Faith* and other *similar institutions*, daily experience proves that the *Holy Childhood*, tends but to forward their designs and aid them more powerfully.

Facility of fulfilling the Obligations imposed by the Association.

In order to obtain the happy results just mentioned, what is required?... Hardly anything! ONE CENT *monthly*, with a *Hail Mary*, and the following invocation: "Holy Virgin and St. Joseph, pray for us, and the poor infidel children." ONE CENT *monthly! Could less be asked?* Who is it that cannot afford this paltry sum? Who dares say it is exorbitant? What mother will neglect this opportunity of drawing down the blessing of Heaven on herself and child?... And where is the child who will not regard as a happiness this consecration of his youthful years to the practice of the noblest virtue—charity? We are glad to say that both mothers and children have well understood these considerations, for both have displayed the most admirable zeal in forwarding the designs of the Association. Children, especially, from those of *the humble artizan* to those of the monarch, have contributed, with a generosity, surprising in their age, to this excellent work. The *Annals* teem with *examples* of this beautiful virtue, practised by them.

Even the less wealthy *Dioceses* and *Parishes* have not been behindhand, and God, who has witnessed their charity, has also bestowed His reward. Other pious Institutions prosper there, and new ones are daily established.

Advantages of the Association.

Beneficial as is the *Holy Childhood* to infidel children, it is not the less so to catholic children; for, without mentioning the *Indulgences* to be gained on *Christmas Day*, at *Easter* and the feasts of the *Presentation*, the *Holy Angels*, *St. Joseph*, *St. Francis Xavier*, *St. Vincent of Paul*, and the *Aniversary of Baptism;* without mentioning even those beautiful feasts, the remembrance of which is never effaced from a child's heart, and which are as affecting as they are innocent: without speaking of all this, what benedictions does it not bring on *Parishes*, *Families*, and principally on members!—on *Mothers*, especially those who have children to rear, and on children who are preparing for their first communion; without mentioning either the *prayers* and *good works* of Missionaries, in which all participate, or of the protection obtained from the Angels of those children who have been saved. What beautiful *sentiments!* what edifying *dispositions* does it not inspire to the minds of these little benefactors?

It makes them appreciate more thoroughly the gift of Faith.
It inspires them with sentiments of gratitude towards God.
It initiates them gradually into the charms of Charity.
It adequately rewards all their endeavors.
It makes them yearn, ever after, for what is truly good, etc.

Admirable Institution! which, having apparently in view only the salvation of unfortunate children, loads with favors and heavenly grace, the happy ones who enroll themselves under its lovely standard! So convinced is every one of this, that, to-day. there is no one who does not consider as an honor his association with the *Holy Childhood*. It is evident, then, that to be opposed or even indifferent to it, would be doing one's self a great injury.

Duties of Members.

Each one is obliged punctually to give his little contribution. He ought to read the *Annals* of the Association, and distribute them to be read; to assist regularly at the meetings, and finally, he should enter with zeal into the designs proposed by the Society in Feasts, Bazaars and Lotteries.

Duties of the Heads of a Dozen.

The Head of each Dozen must apply himself with ardent zeal to propagate the Institution, and increase its resources. He must distribute the *Notices*, *Lists*, *Pictures* and *Annals* of the *Holy Childhood*. He will sell to the profit of the Institution and at the price indicated on the *covers of the Annals*, all *Engravings*, *Medals*, and *other articles* given him for that purpose.

It is the duty of the Heads of Dozens, to draw up or cause to be drawn up, an account of the state of the Institution—they will organize the *Feasts* and *Bazaars* of the Society;—collect the *subscriptions*, distribute the *Annals*, etc. And they may rest assured that the least trouble will not go unrewarded, for it is written: "*A cup of water given in my name will not pass unrewarded.*"

PRAYER OF THE MEMBERS.

O good Infant Jesus! who wished to be saved through means of Mary and Joseph from the massacre of the Holy Innocents, and who wast pleased to reward these tender martyrs, for the loss of a temporal life, by bestowing on them the gift of an eternal one; O sweet Jesus! lover of little children, bless, sanctify, and receive with kindness, the children who devote and consecrate themselves to thy Holy Childhood, that they may become like unto thee, and under the protection of Mary and Joseph, be the means of saving the little infidel children. Amen.

REMARK.—1. Besides the other spiritual advantages we have mentioned, the Members will gain 40 days indulgences each time they do anything for the institution.

2. The Priests who direct this Association, are empowered to bless *Medals, Beads, and Statues of the Infant Jesus and the Blessed Virgin*, and to apply to them not only ordinary indulgences, but even those *of St. Bridget.*